Researches, is well worth a little of our time. Ellis had waited five months in Sydney, after a voyage from England of six, for a " conveyance " to the Society Islands, and then had taken three more to reach his destination. He writes picturesquely :

" Although the scene before me was now one of loveliness and quietude, cheerful, yet placid as the smooth waters of the bay, that scarcely rippled by the vessel's side, it has often worn a very different aspect. Here the first missionaries frequently heard the song accompanying the licentious areois dance, the deafening noise of idol worship, and saw the human victim carried by for sacrifice ; here, too, they often heard the startling cry of war, and saw their frightened neighbours fly before the murderous spear and plundering hand of lawless power. The invaders' torch reduced the native hut to ashes, while

the lurid
flame seared the green foliage of the
trees, and
clouds of smoke, rising up among
their groves,
darkened for a time surrounding
objects. On
such occasions, and they were not
infrequent,
the contrast between the country, and
the inhabi-
tants, must have been most affecting,
appearing as